Statement-IV

S. No.	Name of the State/Region	No. of assessee having taxable income of ten lakhs and above for Assessment Year 1992-93
1.	Gujarat	736
2.	Karnataka	534
3.	Madhya Pradesh	182
4.	Maharashtra	4,800
5.	West Bengal	818
6.	Kerala	275
7.	Delhi	1,521
8.	Andhra Pradesh	261
9.	Rajasthan	97
10.	Uttar Pradesh	320
11.	Tamil Nadu	999
12.	North, West Region (Punjab & Haryana & H.P. and J&K)	271
13.	Patna Region (Bihar & Orissa and NER)	226
	TOTAL :	11,100

Grants by TDA of US for feasibility report on Auto wheel unit

7508. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Trade and Development Agency (TDA) has agreed to grant about a crore of rupees to an Indian company to conduct a feasibility study and prepare a project report for an export-oriented Aluminimum auto-wheel manufacturing unit in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals and agreed time-frame for the submission of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) US Trade and Development Agency have agreed to provide a grant of US $ 250,000 to RPG Industries Ltd. for preparing a feasibility study for their proposed joint venture project to be set up at Bangalore for manufacturing aluminium automotive wheels. The feasibility study will cover detailed technological evaluation, identification of suppliers of equipments and other relevant factors with a view to finalise a detailed project report. The US Embassy has informed that the study will be conducted by a US consultant and is likely to be completed within six months from its commencement.

Pendency of tax assessments and mounting tax arrears

7509. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has voiced serious anxiety over tht rising pendency of tax assessments and mounting tax arrears;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of such pending cases has now exceeded 38 lakhs, involving tax arrears amounting to more than Rs. 9,400 crores; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set action plan targets either by simplification of procedures or deployment of adequate staff and also by putting a moratorium on disposal of such pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The Report of the C and AG for the year 1992-93 has referred to the pending assessments and the increase in the arrears of demand.

(b) The no. of scrutiny assessments pending as on 31-3-93 was only 2.23 lakhs. The arrears as on 31.3.93 amounted to Rs. 9488.54 crores in 38,10,428 cases as stated in C and AG's Report for 1992-93.

(c) While there is no moratorium on disposal of pending cases, the Action Plan targets for the current financial year have been so designed as to ensure maximum possible disposal of pending assessments and liquidation of arrear demand with the existing manpower.

Spiralling inflation

7510. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the double digit inflation still showing no signs of abating;

(b) whether Government agree with the study of the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy that sharp increases in procurement prices of foodgrains like rice and wheat have contributed to the spiralling inflation; and

(c) whether Government would also examine the proposition contained in the study that a corresponding reduction in farm input subsidies would help balance the distortion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The Government is concerned about the present rate of inflation which has ranged from 10.25 per cent to 11.2 per cent in April-May. The latest inflation rate for the week ending 28 May, 1994 is 10.6 per cent.

(b) Increase in the Minimum support/procurement prices of foodgrains is only a partial cause for the recent uptrend in the inflation rate.

(c) The possibility of reduction in farm input subsidies is under constant review and it is the Govt.'s intention to restrict input subsidy expansion as far as possible.

Cost of collecting direct taxes

7511. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tax arrears continue to mount, despite the action plan targets to reduce them;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what was the cost of collection of all direct taxes during 1992-93;

(d) what was its percentage to the total collection;

(e) whether this cost of collection shows a rising or downward trend; and

(f) what steps Government have taken to contain the problems mentioned above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.